

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3380

USIAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS

LOCAL WAGS ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY IN AUSTRALIAN WITH THE MOST CURRENT INDUSTRIAL UNREST WHICH HAS ALL COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY GROUNDED OVER A STRIKE BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS. THE SITUATION HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A FLAW IN SHANGRI-LA, AND AUSTRALIA -- IT CAN'T GET OFF THE GROUND. DESPITE THE LIGHTHEARTED COMMENTS, THE STRIKE IS CAUSING SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS. INTERNATIONAL MAIL HAS BEEN HALTED, DELAYING POUCH COMMUNICATION. SEVERAL VOLSPKRS ARE IN LIMBO, ONE IV GRANTEE IS DELAYED IN SYDNEY'S CARTER ERA PROGRAM HAD TO GO ON WITHOUT THE HOPED-FOR HESS VTR. AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE ALSTON IS GROUNDED IN HAWAII AWAITING TRANSPORTATION AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPOINTEE TO THE CORAL SEA WEEK, MRS. BROCK AND HER HUSBAND ARE TOUGHING IT OUT ALONG

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WITH HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN STRANDED IN VARIOUS CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. THE CIA EXPOSE HAS DROPPED FROM THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PRESS, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONTINUING STORIES AND ALLEGATIONS. THE CARTER JOURNEY TO THE LONDON SUMMIT WAS GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE AND ONE HIGHLY LAUDATORY EDITORIAL ON HIS NATO INITIATIVES.

PROGRAM

"THE CARTER ERA: THE EMERGING PICTURE": THE ALL-DAY MULTI-MEDIA PROGRAM UNDER THIS TITLE AT USIS SYDNEY AND THE U.S. TRADE CENTER, SYDNEY TODAY WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. IT STARTED JUST AFTER LUNCH WITH A ONE HOUR ELECTRONIC DIALOGUE PROGRAM ON "THE CARTER PRESIDENCY" WITH PROFESSOR STEPHEN HESS. 35 TOP JOURNALISTS, ACADEMICS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOOK PART IN THE PROGRAM. INTEREST WAS HIGH, THE CONVERSATION WAS SPIRITED, AND THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE WAS INFORMED. THE PARTICIPANTS STAYED ON TO JOIN MUCH LARGER NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TO VIEW THE FIVE UNIT VIDEO PROGRAM PROVIDING INFORMATION ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DIRECTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON. UP TO 4:00 PM, OVER 300 INVITEES CAME AND ENJOYED THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH CONTINUED IN LATE AFTERNOON WITH A SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY PROF. RICHARD WATERHOUSE, (POLSCI) UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY AT USIS. A SECOND SEMINAR GOES ON THIS EVENING FOR A DIFFERENT AUDIENCE, WHILE MULTIVIDEO, MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION CONTINUES UNTIL 10:00 PM. THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES WERE WELL COVERED BY PRESS AND TV. APPRECIATE AGENCY BACKSTOPPING WITH MATERIALS. ALL THE BOOKS ARRIVED, AS DID THE IPS PHOTOS. ONLY NON-ARRIVAL (BECAUSE OF THE AIRLINES' STRIKE) WAS VTR WITH STEPHEN HESS, BUT THIS A RELATIVELY MINOR NEGATIVE NOTE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OTHERWISE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE VENTURE IN MAKING INTERESTED SYDNEY AUDIENCES BETTER INFORMED OF PROGRAMS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN WASHINGTON.

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USIS MELBOURNE ARRANGED FOR FULBRIGHTER PROFESSOR SAM DASH (CHIEF COUNSEL TO SENATE WATERGATE COMMITTEE) TO APPEAR ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS BOTH MAJOR CHANNELS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ABC TELECAST OF FROST/NIXON FIRST INTERVIEW. DASH SPOKE IMPRESSIVELY OF THE STRENGTHS OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL/JUDICIAL SAFEGUARDS. THE AGE, MELBOURNE, ALSO RAN HALF OF EDITORIAL PAGE ARTICLE INTERVIEWING DASH.

THE "SANDWICH SEMINAR/ IDEA (WINE, CHEESE AND VTR'S FOR INVITED PRIMARY AUDIENCE MEMBERS), INTRODUCED THIS WEEK IN THE REVAMPED VIDEO CORNER IN USIS MELBOURNE WITH SAME SUCCESS AND SAME GOOD TOP LEVEL AUDIENCES THE ON-GOING VTR SERIES MET IN CANBERRA AND SYDNEY.

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